



Knights of Columbus
Father Philip Grant Assembly 3272
Georgetown – Pawleys Island, SC



1633 Waverly Road
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

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**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THIRD ANNUAL PAWLEYS ISLAND FOURTH OF JULY
EVENING CELEBRATION – A SALUTE TO OUR NATION AND OUR MILITARY**

More than three hundred and fifty gathered to enjoy this special patriotic evening saluting our nation and our military. Sponsored by Council 11028 and Assembly 3272 of the Knights of Columbus, the event took place in the Parish Life Center (PLC) of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church. Sir Knight Roy Elmendorf, emcee of the celebration, noted in his opening remarks, “We are here on the 237th anniversary of the signing of The Declaration of Independence to say, ‘Happy Birthday, U.S.A.,’ to commemorate the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and thank you for your service, to enjoy an evening of patriotic music by the Pawleys Island Concert Band under the direction of Carson Turner, and to reflect on the blessings of freedom that we all share in the United States of America.”

The extensive program started with a presentation of the Colors by the Marine Corps League, Midway Fire Department and the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard. Following this, Blake Graham, a student at Coastal Carolina University, with the accompaniment of the Pawleys Island Concert Band, led the participants in singing the National Anthem. Sir Knight Bill Wichrowski, Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3272 of the Knights of Columbus then led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fr. Patrick Stenson of Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church gave the invocation following which the band played Taps and Jackson Barnes, who will be a 5th grade student at Waccamaw Intermediate School, read selections from John Adams’ Independence Day letter.

The Pawleys Island Concert Band then performed its first of two segments of musical selections. The first segment included a stirring rendition of “America the Beautiful” and March Independentia,” some selections dedicated to American Heroes (“Batman Theme” and “Superman Returns”) and closed with the clarinet quarter playing “Give My Regards to Broadway” and then leading the audience in singing “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.”

During the band intermission, Rear Admiral Richard Milligan, U.S. Navy Retired, shared his reflections on the sacrifice made by members of the military and their families and the significance of the 4th of July to Americans. A Salute to Veterans by Col. Jim McMahon, U.S. Army Retired,



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recognized veterans in the audience who had served in WW II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, current members serving in the Gulf Region, and all service men and women who have served in other capacities and locations. Spontaneous standing ovations honored each group as they were recognized.

The second segment of musical selections by the Pawleys Island Concert Band followed, highlighted by a salute to all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces during which veterans of the different services stood to be recognized for their service and a rousing “1812 Overture.”

Following this segment, Sir Knight Bill Wichrowski, Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3272 and Sir Knight Don Johnston, Grand Knight of Council 11028 presented the Patriotism Award - an American eagle wrapped in an American flag - to Rear Admiral Richard Milligan, U.S. Navy Retired, for his long and distinguished service to our country.

Following the presentation, Blake Graham led the audience in singing “God Bless America.” Members of the audience rose as they sang in a spontaneous display of love of country.

Sir Knights from Assembly 3272 then carried out a Flag Folding Ceremony with Col. McMahon describing the meaning of each of the thirteen folds of the flag. This was accompanied by a flute/clarinet ensemble playing a patriotic medley arranged by Carson Turner.

The evening program concluded with the band’s final selection, “Stars and Stripes Forever.” It brought the cheering crowd to its feet...a clear indication that they will return next year for another Patriotic Evening.



SK Roy Elmendorf, emcee, opens the Fourth of July Celebration



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Fr. Patrick Stenson offers Invocation



Jackson Barnes reads selections from John Adams' Independence Day letter



World War 2 Veterans recognized by Col. McMahon



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SK Johnston, SK Wichrowski, Rear Admiral Richard Milligan, U.S. Navy Retired, Mrs. Milligan, and SK Elmendorf



Sir Knights performing Flag Folding Ceremony

With more than 1.8 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people. Knights of Columbus members last year set records by providing more than 70 million hours of charitable service and more than \$158 million in donations to charitable causes. During the past decade, the K of C has donated more than \$1.4 billion to charity, and provided nearly 640 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.